

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 10/798,616

Confirmation No.: 6205

Filed: March 11, 2004

For: **DECK ASSEMBLY FOR A SELF-PROPELLED, WALK-BEHIND ROTARY LAWN MOWER**

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Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel withdrawn claims 6-13 and 25-31 without prejudice.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

Listing of Claims

1-5. (Canceled)

6. - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A deck assembly for a walk-behind rotary lawn mower, the deck assembly comprising:

a deck defining a cutting chamber operable to house a cutting member, wherein the cutting chamber is bound at least in part by a rear enclosure member;

a rectangular rear discharge port located, when the mower is in an operating configuration, on a rear portion of the deck; and

a duct of substantially rectangular cross section extending through the rear enclosure member between the cutting chamber and the rectangular rear discharge port, the duct defining a duct axis that is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the mower.

15. (Original) The deck assembly of claim 14, wherein the rectangular rear discharge port has a transverse width and a vertical height, wherein the transverse width is greater than the vertical height.

16. (Original) The deck assembly of claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the duct is formed by an underside of the deck.

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17. **(Original)** The deck assembly of claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the duct is formed by the rear enclosure member.
18. **(Original)** The deck assembly of claim 14, further comprising a transmission proximate the rear discharge port and operable to power two rear wheels, wherein the transmission is drivingly coupled to a prime mover via an endless belt.
19. **(Original)** The deck assembly of claim 18, wherein the endless belt extends through the cutting chamber along an underside of the deck.
20. **(Original)** The deck assembly of claim 18, wherein the endless belt extends through a portion of the rear enclosure member.
21. **(Original)** The deck assembly of claim 20, wherein the endless belt is at least partially enclosed between an underside of the deck and a belt cover secured to the underside of the deck.
22. **(Original)** The deck assembly of claim 21, wherein the belt cover has a shape that substantially conforms to a shape of the underside of the deck.
23. **(Original)** The deck assembly of claim 21, wherein the belt cover abuts the rear enclosure member.
24. **(Original)** The deck assembly of claim 14, further comprising a side discharge port located, when the lawn mower is in the operating configuration, generally along a lateral side portion of the mower, the side discharge port having a door associated therewith, the door operable to selectively cover the side discharge port.
- 25.-31. **(Canceled)**